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FLOOR DEBATE

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understand it, is about \$4.7 million. The annual revenue to the fund is in the neighborhood of \$1.5 million, \$1.6 million. Again, it is a current disposal fee that pertains to dumping waste in landfills. The fee itself is not being increased, but the livestock waste operations, the cleanup of livestock waste operations, should the state have to do it, they could draw upon this fund to accomplish that purpose. Now, this is not going to change the responsible party. Of course, the owners-operators are the responsible parties. But it would provide backup and kick in, in those instances where the responsible party simply cannot do the cleanup, so that in fact our environment does get cleaned up one way or the other. This is not dissimilar to what we do with gas stations. As you all know, we have a fund out there that is basically funded by gas taxes. That fund is used to remediate petroleum leaks and releases, and to remediate those. This is creating a similar kind of mechanism, albeit different funds, for the potential...for covering the potential of necessary cleanups of livestock waste operations. That's what the amendment does, and I would invite your support of it. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes. Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, we have reviewed Senator Beutler's amendment. We are agreeing to it. It is a good idea. I do want to state, at the current time, DEQ has never had to come in and clean up a livestock waste facility site that's been abandoned. Now I'm not going to say that isn't going to happen in the future and, matter of fact, they do have their eyes on one site that has that potential. I don't think it would be an expensive cleanup. But where there is no responsible party to clean up a site, this mechanism to do so is appropriate, and I would urge you to advance Senator Beutler's amendment.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Beutler, there are no further lights, if you would like to close on your amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: No. No closing required.